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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/003,033	11/01/2001	Olivier J. A. Schueller	H00498/70168 TJO	2182

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EXAMINER

LE, QUE TAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2878

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/003,033

Applicant(s)

SCHUELLER ET AL.

Examiner

Que T. Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-69, 79-88 and 98-107 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 70-78 and 89-97 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-69, 79-88 and 98-107 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)-

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other:

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Due to a missing claim 79, claims 1-108, of the present application, have been renumbered, under rule 37 CFR 1.126, as claims 1-107. In response to Applicants' preliminary amendment filed November 1, 2001 and June 12, 2002, in which original claim numbers 70-78 and 90-98 which corresponding to renumbered claims 70-78 and 89-97 have been cancelled. The remaining claims 1-69, 79-88 and 98-107, of the present application, are referred hereinafter in this communication.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-28 and 52-69, drawn to a method and system for determining diffraction/absorption of electromagnetic radiation from first and second samples, classified in class 250, subclass 576.
- II. Claims 29-51 and 107, drawn to a method for exposing surfaces of first and second components, with a specific arrangement, to plasma, classified in class 250, subclass 554.
- III. Claims 79-88, drawn to a method of bonding surfaces together using siloxane, classified in class 156, subclass 329.
- IV. Claims 98-102, drawn to an article having a defined liquid-impermeable seal, classified in class 200, subclass 359.4.
- V. Claim 103, drawn to a method for causing electroosmotic flow in a channel, classified in class 205, subclass 451.
- VI. Claim 104, drawn to a system having a channel with an electrical controlled circuit, classified in class 193, subclass 601.

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VII. Claims 105 and 106, drawn to a method of forming a liquid-impermeable seal by a pretreatment, classified in class 417, subclass 65.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

Inventions I, II, III, IV, V, VI and VII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, each of the inventions I, II, III, IV, V, VI and VII requires a different requirement which resulting a separate utility, one from each others, such as stated in each of the group of the inventions listed above. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Que T. Le whose telephone number is (703) 308-4830.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



Que T Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2878